AIDS Retro-virus in Women

2927. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Institute of Virology has isolated new AIDS retro-virus in women;

(b) whether the finding would explain some strange features associated with AIDS and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any further research is carried on at the NIV and other medical centres in India and if so, with what results;

(d) whether AIDS is beginning to show an increasing trend in men from Tamil Nadu and if so, what are the reasons for the same; and

(e) whether the Director, NIV has suggested that use of condoms be made compulsory to avoid AIDS; and what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) National Institute of Virology has reported that they isolated a new AIDS retro-virus from 4 cases of AIDS, all of whom had acquired infection abroad. The virus has a major core and a polymerase but no envelope and hence is like an incomplete virus.

(b) National Institute of Virology has hypothesised that the presence of the incomplete virus particle might explain the relatively long incubation period in HIV infection and fluctuating antibody levels in HIV infected individuals reported from India and elsewhere in the world.

(c) National Institute of Virology is continuing to undertake studies on virus isolation and characterisation from Indians detected to have HIV antibodies.

(d) Based on the country wide surveillance and screening of persons belonging to high risk groups, 222 persons have been confirmed to have AIDS infection of which the majority is from Tamil Nadu. The data emerging from sero-surveillance studies indicate that heterosexual transmission is the major mode of transmission of HIV infection in Tamil Nadu and with intensification of sero-surveillance the sero positive persons from different risk groups are being successfully picked up by the screening.

(e) The former Director, NIV and present Project Director, Centre for AIDS Research and Control suggests compulsory use of condoms for risk groups like prostitutes and their heterosexual partners to avoid spread of AIDS not necessarily district from but an additional aid for family planning. The Government emphasises in its publicity, use of condom from contracting diseases like AIDS or other sexually transmitted diseases.

Aggressive and unethical promotion of supplementary Baby Food

2928. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the various Baby Food manufacturers are now diverting the public attention by way of aggressive and unethical promotion of supplementary Baby Foods, as replacement of Baby Milk powders; and

(b) whether Government propose to bring forward a comprehensive Code for all types of baby food products with or without milk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Ministry is not aware of such promotion of supplementary baby foods.

(b) A 'National Code for Protection and Promotion of Breast-feeding' has already been promulgated with the aim to contribute to the provision of safe and adequate nutrition for infants, by the protection and promotion of breast-feeding, and by ensuring the proper use of breast-milk substi-

tutes, when these are necessary, on the basis of adequate information and through appropriate marketing and distribution.

Theft of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi

2929. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware about a number of cases about theft of medicines in various CGHS dispensaries in Delhi|New Delhi during the period 1st January, 1985 and 31st December, 1987;

(b) whether a major case of theft of medicines in CGHS dispensary (no. 65); took place during the aforesaid period, immediately after which the then Storekeeper was transferred; if so, the amount of medicines stolen; (in each case and particularly for dispensary No. 65); and

(c) whether any thorough inquiry into those theft cases were constituted, if so, the results of inquiries and persons found guilty in each case; and the action taken or proposed to be taken against each of the guilty persons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) Five cases of theft of medicines in CGHS dispensaries were reported during January, 1985 to December, 1987.

(b) and (c) Though no case of theft of medicines in CGHS dispensary No. 65 was reported, but the then Store keeper was transferred in August, 1986. The amount of loss occurred due to theft in the above 5 cases is given below :—

Sl. No.	Name of dispy.	Date of theft	Amount of loss
1	Mayur Vihar	20-3-85	Rs. 8215
2	Gole Market-II	1 & 2-8-85	Rs. 692
3	Pushp Vihar	9-3-87	Rs. 8590
4	Lodi Road-II	25-2-87	Rs. 16182
5	Nauroji Nagar	3-11-85	Rs. 3209

In one case the guilty official has been charge-sheeted and the Departmental enquiry is in process. In the remaining 4 cases necessary Departmental action will be taken against the delinquent on receipt of Police Report.

Decline in standard of Education in Universities

2930. SHRI YELLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the statement issued by Prof. C. N. R. Rao, President of the Indian Science Congress, that the state of our Universities is becoming worse and worse with passage of time;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to improve the image of the Universities;

(c) whether Government propose to increase expenditure on Chemistry based Research and Diagnosis particularly in composite materials and ceramics in line with their importance;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) whether there is a proposal with Government to establish a National Science and Engineering Foundation to examine how best scientific research could be founded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir. The observation was made by Prof. Rao in his Presidential Address to the Indian Science Congress in January, 1988 at Pune. According to him, higher science education today presents a rather discouraging picture due to several factors of a complex nature. These include, among others, the problems faced in school education, overcrowding in Universities and colleges, inadequacy of library and laboratory facilities in many colleges, etc.

(b) The National Policy on Education 1986 and its Programme of Action visualises a series of measures for improving